



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Walla Walla District

News Release

News Release 07-45

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: May 9, 2007

Phone: (509) 527-7020

McNary Dam hosts free fishing derby for kids

UMATILLA, Ore. – The Natural Resources Management staff at McNary Lock and Dam will offer guided tours of the Washington Fish View Room and the navigation lock on Saturdays at 10 a.m., beginning May 26 until Sept. 1, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials at the dam announced today.

Public access to the north shore fish viewing room and navigation lock has been limited since the 9-11 closure of that area. Since then, park rangers have facilitated occasional educational tours to those facilities.

“The North Shore Fish Viewing Room is considered the best vantage point from which to see adult salmon passing McNary Dam,” said Park Ranger Pasquale Anolfo. “We’re glad to be able to offer this opportunity to the public, so they can once again see these incredible fish up close through the windows.”

Visitors on the tour may have the chance to observe vessels passing the dam through the navigation, Anolfo added.

“While there’s no guarantee a boat will need to lock through during the tour, visitors will be able to take a look inside the lock and learn a little more about how the Corps plays a role in navigation,” said Anolfo.

To take advantage of this unique opportunity, check in with the park ranger and security at the north gate on the Washington side of McNary Dam about 10 minutes prior to the start of the tour. Visitors over the age of 18 will need to provide photo identification for security purposes. Cameras, backpacks, cell phones, purses and large hand bags are not allowed inside secure areas of the dam. The tour is expected to last about one hour. Visitors should wear sturdy walking shoes and expect to walk several flights of stairs.

To get there by traveling on Highway 82, take exit 131 east and follow the road to the north entrance of the dam; located at Columbia River Mile 292, on the north riverbank.

For more information about this event, call the McNary Natural Resources Office at (541) 922-2268.

-30-